



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

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Worship Resource
World Communion Sunday

Anchor Text

Luke 1:76-79

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon ^[h] us,

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Lectionary Texts

Daily Lectionary

- **Morning** Psalms 103;
150
- **First Reading** 2 Kings
20:1-21
- **Second Reading** Acts
12:1-17
- **Gospel Reading** Luke
7:11-17
- **Evening** Psalms 117;
139

Sunday Lectionary

- **First Reading** Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-
26
- **Psalm** 137:1-9
- **Second Reading** 2 Timothy 1:1-14
- **Gospel** Luke 17:5-10

- Suggested Hymns
- Call to Worship
- Opening Prayer
- Confession, Pardon and Peace
- A Time with Children
- Prayer for Illumination
- Call for Offering
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Eucharist
- Blessing and Charge

Musical Resources:

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Opening Hymn: | "Blest Be the God of Israel" (Song of Zechariah) | <i>Glory to God</i> #109 |
| Congregational Hymn | "We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom" | <i>Glory to God</i> #378 |
| Closing Hymn | "Will You Come and Follow Me" (the Summons) | <i>Glory to God</i> #726 |

Anthem: "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table" Michael Corzine and John Ferguson
(Text is *Glory to God*, #506)

Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 103)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

Bless God's Holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget God's benefits,

who forgives all our iniquity,

who heals all our diseases,

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

who redeems our life,

who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

who satisfies us with good as long as we live

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Bless the Lord.

Opening Prayer

(Based on Psalm 150)

Gracious God, with grateful hearts we gather to bring you praise.

May your praises fill the whole earth.

We are thankful for your mighty works,

and for the tender care you give us.

We praise you with our voices, our bodies, our instruments, ourselves.

We join all of creation to give you praise.

In the name of your Son, our Lord, **amen.**

Call to Confession

Hear the good news of the Gospel.

Jesus Christ came to save sinners.

We confess in the sure and certain knowledge

that God's grace overflowed to us while we were yet sinners.

In confidence let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

our sins are too heavy to carry,

too real to hide,

and too deep to undo.

We look at a world undone by strife,

torn by violence,

separated by hatred.

Yet you call us to walk the way of peace.

Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to

follow you on this path because the cost is too high,

the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh.

Forgive us our complacency.

Grant us clarity of vision to see the light,

And the strength to walk behind you.

In the power of your Spirit we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness (from Luke 1)

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

[Signs of peace may be exchanged by all.]

Suggestion for a Time with Children

This is a story we often tell in the Advent season.

Zechariah was a priest at the temple in Jerusalem. One day an angel, Gabriel, came to him and said, "Your wife Elizabeth will have a baby boy. You will name him John." Zechariah couldn't believe this was true because he and Elizabeth were very old, much too old to have a baby.

Zechariah doubted the angel's message, and because of this, he became unable to speak until after the baby was born. When this baby was born, Elizabeth announced that his name was John. This seemed an odd name to the family and friends around them. They turned to Zechariah, but he could not speak. So they handed him a tablet, and he wrote down the name John.

Then Zechariah's tongue began to work, and he started to speak, to sing out in praise of God that his son John would become one who prepares the way of Jesus to bring peace.

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78 By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon^[h] us,
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Prayer:
God, we smile
when we hear the story of Zechariah.
Help us to praise you as he did,
joining the songs and prayers
of people all around the world.
Guide us in the way of peace. **Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,
as we read your word,
may your Spirit speak through it
that it may be for us the word of life. **Amen.**

Invitation to Offering (from 2 Peter 3 and BCW, p. 170)

All things in heaven and earth belong to God,
who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.

[specific words of invitation for offering, concluding with:]

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Most loving and gracious God, we are thankful. We are thankful for your grace to us in Jesus Christ, for your gift of the church in its global witness, for the capacity to give. May these gifts help prepare the way of peace in our community around the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Invitation to the Table

On the Lord's Day, Christians from around the world gather at the table, one family sharing one meal. On this day, we focus our attention on that global gathering that happens every time we share the cup and the loaf. Christ invites us:

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,
and let the one who believes in me drink.” (John 7:37-38)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (based on BCW, pp. 172-4)

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator of the universe.

You made us from the dust of the earth,
Breathed into us the breath of life,
And set us in your world to love you.

We rejected your love, your peace.
We chose to live in enmity with one another
Rather than peace with you and all creation.
But you did not reject us,
and you called us back to you over and over again.
We thank you for the prophets like John
who prepared the way of peace.

Therefore we praise you,
Joining our voices with the heavenly choirs
And with all the faithful of every time and place,
Who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks for Jesus
at whose birth the angels sang of the
coming reign of peace on earth,
who fed the hungry, humbled the mighty,
and proclaimed the good news.

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,
sharing this holy meal,
Remembering Christ's dying and rising,
And praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—
this bread, this cup, this people—

Christ's body and blood,
that brings us peace.

As you make us one in the Spirit,
grant us the strength and wisdom
to seek peace in the world.

Keep us in the peace of Christ
until you gather us at your table in glory
Guide us in the path of peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Breaking of the Bread

Our Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Prayer after Communion

God our hope, we give you thanks
that you have given us this foretaste
of the heavenly realm of justice and peace.
Strengthen us with this food from your table
as we seek to serve you.
Lead us in lives of purpose and joy as
we await the coming again in glory
of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Jesus Christ is the dawn that lights the way of peace. **Alleluia!**

Therefore, let us follow in that way, making peace with all. **Amen.**